



The City of Morgantown

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Safe Streets & Safe Community Municipal Fee Funds Largest Paving Project to Date

MORGANTOWN – The City of Morgantown is quickly approaching the completion of its biggest paving project yet.

“This year’s project is about three times the size of a normal project. We usually do \$400,000; this year we’re doing \$1.6 Million. Maybe a little bit more, we’ve added a few things to the project,” said Damien Davis, the City Engineer. “We usually do ten to fifteen parts of roadways; this year we’re doing 28 full sections. Some of these sections are around a mile long, so we’re doing a lot more roadways. Normally, we have maybe ten ADA ramps and this year we’re doing over 200.”

The City made sure to finish all of the work on major roads mainly used by West Virginia University students and faculty before the Fall semester began. City Engineers also used a list of criteria to prioritize which streets needed to be completed first.

“Off of complaints from the citizens, people that live on the street, people that use the street to get to work, or if they called the City Engineers office. We kept a list of all of that. And then also, they had interns a couple of years ago go out and rate every single street in Morgantown on a one to ten scale; ten being the best type of street, and one being the worst. The prioritized them that way,” explained Assistant City Engineer Alex Stockdale. “They also laid down the traffic counters so we saw what the flow was, how many people used that road every day. We prioritized on the maximum amount of people we could help.”

Workers from Morgantown Public Works and Parrotta Paving are placing more than 230 ADA ramps to provide the best accessibility for residents. Workers will also lay 11,000 tons of asphalt by the time the project is completed. All of the work is funded by the Safe Streets & Safe Community Municipal Fee.

“Maybe people have been inconvenienced a little bit and it overshadows all the good we’ve been doing,” said Stockdale. “Hopefully people see how much we’ve helped the community, even if it took you a couple of extra minutes to get to work.”

“The lifespan of a road is ten to fifteen years, maybe twenty years. Some of our residential roads last longer because they don’t get as much traffic as the main roads. “The lifespan of those roads are maybe twenty or twenty-five years,” said Davis. “It’s a small inconvenience now but overall it’s going to be a big thing.”

This project has been a large undertaking for the City Engineer’s Department. Davis has been working with the city for less than two years, and Stockdale started with the city in June of 2016.

“First of all, I’d like to apologize for any inconvenience that the citizens have suffered from this. It’s been a huge undertaking for our new engineering staff, as this project has gone from a typical year of \$400,000 to more than \$1.6 Million in paving this year,” said Interim City Manager Glen Kelly. “It’s over triple what we’ve normally done, and the ADA ramps, the sidewalk pieces that were new requirements, have slowed the process. However, I’m very happy that this is going to improve the streets of Morgantown for decades to come.”

Morgantown City Engineers expect the entire project to be wrapped up by Mid-November.

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